

DEC 21 1998

17 December 1998

Mr. Lester Snow  
Executive Director  
CALFED Bay-Delta  
1416 Ninth Street, #1155  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Proposal 98-A1004, Opening up Butte Creek Canyon to Salmon and Steelhead Passage

Dear Mr. Snow:

H&M Engineering, Inc. operates and maintains the Forks of Butte Hydroelectric Project for its' owner, Hypower, Inc. Hypower is located in Alameda, California. H&M was the project manager during the construction of the project and has overseen the operations since start up. We are authorized to speak for the owner in these matters.

We would like to express our opposition to the subject proposal as it now apparently stands. Our representative has attended the public meetings, but we have never had the opportunity to review any of its contents directly. Nor have we been advised of the clear plans for study or implementation activity.

Aside from our objection on this basis alone, we have serious considerations on the long term impacts of the program under consideration. The Forks of Butte project has taken great pains and considerable expense to protect the visual and water based resource of Butte Creek and wonder about the physical and possibly ecological degradation of the creek that would be part of restoration of a non-resident species to the creek. It is not clear that these possible impacts have been considered on even a preliminary basis. It would be ironic indeed if public funds were expended in a program with a very negative result, when the reverse was intended. We also question the advisability of funding such a project that has not been fully coordinated nor studied in a fully public forum.

We would appreciate being provided a full copy of the proposal for consideration and more detailed comment, as well as some official notification of the status of this proposal. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours

  
Philip M. Hoover